

# Committee Preferences: Get Involved in Your Bar!

Committee assignment requests are now being accepted for the 2010-11 Bar year. Descriptions of the current committees of the Louisiana State Bar Association begin on page 2. LSBA President-Elect Michael A. Patterson will make all committee appointments. Widespread participation is encouraged in all Bar programs and activities. Appointments to committees are not guaranteed, but every effort will be made to accommodate members' interests. When making selections, members should consider the time commitment associated with committee assignments and their availability to participate. **Members are asked to list experience relevant to service on the chosen committees. The deadline for committee assignment requests is April 16, 2010.**

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## Louisiana State Bar Association 2010-11 Committee Preference Form

Indicate below your committee preference(s). If you are interested in more than one committee, list in 1-2-3 preference order.

On this form or on a separate sheet, list experience relevant to service on your chosen committee(s).

### Print or Type

- Access to Justice
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Bar Governance
- Bench Bar
- Children's Law
- Client Assistance Fund
- Community Action
- Continuing Legal Education Program
- Crystal Gavel Awards
- Diversity
- Group Insurance
- Lawyers in Transition
- Legal Malpractice Insurance
- Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities
- Legislation
- Medical/Legal Interprofessional
- Military Law
- Practice Assistance and Improvement
- Committee on the Profession
- Public Access and Consumer Protection
- Public Information
- Right to Counsel
- Rules of Professional Conduct
- Technology

### Response Deadline: April 16, 2010

Mail or fax your completed form to:

**Christine A. Richard, Program Coordinator/  
Marketing & Sections  
Louisiana State Bar Association  
601 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70130-3404**

**Fax (504)566-0930**

LSBA Bar Roll Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

List below (or on a separate sheet) experience relevant to service on the chosen committee(s).

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\_\_\_\_\_

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# 2010-11 LSBA Committees

## **Access to Justice Committee**

The committee works to assure that every Louisiana citizen has access to competent civil legal representation by promoting and supporting a broad-based and effective justice community through collaboration between the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Louisiana Bar Foundation, Louisiana law schools, private practitioners, local bar associations, pro bono programs and legal aid providers.

## **Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse**

The committee protects the public by assisting, on a confidential basis, lawyers and judges who have alcohol, drug, gambling and other addictions. The committee works with the Lawyers Assistance Program, Inc. to counsel, conduct interventions and locate treatment facilities for impaired lawyers, and to monitor recovering attorneys and attorneys referred by the Louisiana Attorney Disciplinary Board or Office of Disciplinary Counsel.

## **Bar Governance Committee**

The committee ensures effective and equitable governance of the association by conducting an ongoing evaluation of relevant procedures and making recommendations to the House of Delegates regarding warranted amendments to the association's Articles of Incorporation and/or Bylaws.

## **Bench Bar Committee**

The committee engages the state judiciary, determines issues of mutual interest and concern, and develops programs to address those issues with the goal of improving the system of justice.

## **Children's Law Committee**

The committee provides a forum for attorneys and judges working with children to promote improvements and changes in the legal system to benefit children, parents and the professionals who serve these families.

## **Client Assistance Fund Committee**

The committee protects the public and maintains the integrity of the legal profession by reimbursing, to the extent deemed appropriate, losses caused by the dishonest conduct of any licensed Louisiana lawyer practicing in the state.

## **Community Action Committee**

The committee serves as a catalyst statewide for lawyer community involvement through charitable and other public service projects.

## **Continuing Legal Education Program Committee**

The committee fulfills the Louisiana Supreme Court mandate of making quality and diverse continuing legal education opportunities available at an affordable price to LSBA members.

## **Crystal Gavel Awards Committee**

The committee solicits and reviews nominations for the Crystal Gavel Awards and offers recommendations of recipients.

## **Diversity Committee**

The committee assesses the level of racial, ethnic and gender diversity within all components of the legal profession in Louisiana, identifies barriers to the attainment of full and meaningful representation and participation, and proposes programs and methods to remove barriers and achieve greater diversity.

## **Group Insurance Committee**

The committee ensures the most favorable rates and benefits for LSBA members and their employees and dependents for Bar-endorsed health, life and disability insurance programs.

## **Lawyers in Transition Committee**

The committee studies rules and practices regarding curatorships of lawyers' practices; studies methods for preserving the practice of lawyers and protecting clients for lawyers unable to temporarily practice, either voluntarily or involuntarily, as a result of disability due to health, or arising out of the disciplinary process; studies voluntary methods of designating a successor or other transitioning process for a lawyer's practice in advance of any disability or death; and provides a method of involuntary intervention for lawyers suffering a severe age-related impairment to protect the clients and to deliver assistance to the age-impaired attorney.

## **Legal Malpractice Insurance Committee**

The committee ensures the most favorable rates, coverage and service for Louisiana lawyers insured under the Bar-endorsed legal malpractice plan by overseeing the relationship between the LSBA, its carrier and its third-party administrator, and considers on an ongoing basis the feasibility and advisability of forming a captive malpractice carrier.

# 2010-11 LSBA Committees (continued)

## **Legal Services for Persons with Disabilities Committee**

The committee provides members of the bench, Bar and general public with a greater understanding of the legal needs and rights of persons with disabilities, and helps persons with disabilities meet their legal needs and understand their rights and resources.

## **Legislation Committee**

The committee informs the membership of legislation or proposed legislation of interest to the legal profession; assists the state Legislature by providing information on substantive and procedural developments in the law, disseminates information to the membership, identifies resources available to the Legislature, and provides other appropriate non-partisan assistance; and advocates for the legal profession and the public on issues affecting the profession, the administration of justice and the delivery of legal services.

## **Medical/Legal Interprofessional Committee**

The committee works with the joint committee of the Louisiana State Medical Society to promote collegiality between members of the legal and medical professions by receiving and making recommendations on complaints relative to physician/lawyer relationships and/or problems.

## **Military Law Committee**

The committee coordinates statewide efforts to assist in legal matters affecting active, reserve and other members of the military and their families and to inform and advise Bar members of matters relating to the practice of military law in Louisiana.

## **Practice Assistance and Improvement Committee**

The committee serves the Bar and the public in furtherance of the association's goals of prevention and correction of lawyer misconduct and assistance to victims of lawyer misconduct by evaluating, developing and providing effective alternatives to discipline programs for minor offenses, educational and practice assistance programs, and programs to resolve minor complaints and lawyer/client disputes.

## **Committee on the Profession**

The committee encourages lawyers to exercise the highest standards of integrity, ethics and professionalism in their conduct; examines systemic issues in the legal system arising out of the lawyer's relationship and duties to his/her clients, other lawyers, the courts, the judicial system and the public good; provides the impetus and means to positively impact those relationships and duties; improves access to the legal system; and improves the quality of life and work/life balance for lawyers.

## **Public Access and Consumer Protection Committee**

The committee protects the public from incompetent or fraudulent activities by those who are unauthorized to practice law or who are otherwise misleading those in need of legal services.

## **Public Information Committee**

The committee promotes a better understanding of the law, legal profession, individual lawyers and the LSBA through a variety of public outreach efforts.

## **Right to Counsel Committee**

The committee develops programs and methods which allow the Bar to work with the courts, other branches of government and the public to ensure that the constitutionally mandated right to counsel is afforded to all who appear before the courts.

## **Rules of Professional Conduct Committee**

The committee monitors and evaluates developments in legal ethics and, when appropriate, recommends changes to the Louisiana Rules of Professional Conduct; acts as liaison to the Louisiana Supreme Court on matters concerning the Rules of Professional Conduct; reviews issues of legal ethics and makes recommendations to the LSBA House of Delegates regarding modifications to the existing ethical rules; oversees the work of the Ethics Advisory Service and its Advertising Committee, Publications Subcommittee and other subcommittees; and promotes the highest professional standards of ethics in the practice of law.

## **Technology Committee**

The committee guides the association in the implementation and utilization of new technologies to provide greater service to its members and the public.